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Against the Current

Thu Thuy Nguyen, Columbus College of Art and Design

Keywords: Design, construction, pattern, sculptural

This is an outfit named “Against the Current” from my S/S 2015 collection “Into the Wind.” The collection is inspired by people who travel alone and their one and only companion: the natural wind.

As our society becomes more and more modern, the gap between people and people is also rapidly widened. Instead of building relationship with others, most people nowadays prefer to go online and post on social networks. Within that fast-moving world, there are those who feel lonely and somehow left out. They want to escape from all the gadgets around them and go far away to re-discover themselves and find peace within their minds. They decide to go back to nature where everything is pure and peaceful. The airy space helps them calm their minds and the pureness helps them rest their bodies. At some point they seem to have emerged into the natural wind, travelling through mountains and seas, back to Mother Nature. This long and lonely adventure is translated into the language of Fashion in the collection. As a result, even though the collection is designed for spring and summer seasons, its colors are doomed so as to indicate the loneliness each “traveler” has inside throughout the journey.

At the beginning of the design process, I did research on images of the people whose works involved a lot with nature such as boatman in order to find out interesting silhouettes and details that I could put into my collection. I also took a look at layering and darting techniques used in fashion.

The outfit includes a baggy pants and a blouse. Both pieces are asymmetrical and all the design elements are designed to bring out the “feel” of the natural wind: strong, fast, and free in a relaxing yet constructed way.

The grey crop-top has two layers connected to each other by ties. The left one overlaps the right and the neckline runs toward the connecting point of the two. The blouse features lantern sleeves, narrow cuffs and



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an asymmetrical flat collar. I used light-weight grey suiting fabric as the main fabric and organza for the underlining. The firmness of organza greatly helped support the light garment fabric. Hand stitching and facing are used to finish the garment in order to maintain a clean appearance. Snaps are attached to the cuffs and the two fronts in order to sustain the silhouette.

The navy baggy pants features a high asymmetrical waistband and an invisible zipper. A bottomless pocket on the right side creates the illusion of layers without interfering with the shape. A metal zipper and a row of snaps perpendicular to it are attached to the left pant. An elastic casing at the hems maintain the gathers and create a look the mimics the shape of the sleeves. I used the wrong side of medium weight satin as I wanted to take advantage of both the sculptural quality and the textured surface.

The look of this ensemble is comfortable yet sculptural, something that a traveler would wear in their journey. Asymmetrical details make the garments look interesting and unique while the fabrics and fabric combination help maintain the silhouette.



TOP MEASUREMENTS:

1. Bust: 35.0"
2. CB length: 15"
3. Sleeve length: 23"
4. HPS to armhole: 8.5"

Date completed 03/10/2014

PANTS MEASUREMENTS:

1. Waist: 25.50"
2. Hip: 48"
3. Inseam: 21.75"
4. Outseam: 33.25"

Date completed 02/12/2014